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INDIAN AFFAIRS • 1965

*A Progress Report from the
Commissioner of Indian Affairs*

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Commissioner's Message

The Bureau of Indian Affairs is fully committed in the battle to drive poverty from American Indian reservation communities. Educational opportunities, reaching from the preschooler to the elder citizen, are continuing to broaden so that the Indian people may take fullest advantage of the economic development taking form in many once remote and isolated regions.

The 12-month period ending June 30, 1965 witnessed an upsurge not only in Bureau endeavors but in Indian participation in matters affecting them as American citizens. Education and economic development are the major fronts in the war on poverty.

The Bureau continued a crash program to add enough classrooms to meet the rising school enrollments and to take up the slack where public schools are not available for Indian children. We continued to experiment with new methods, such as team teaching in large Bureau boarding schools. We tried new ways of teaching the language arts to children from non-English speaking homes.

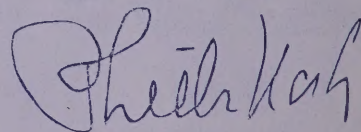
The Adult Vocational Training Program received another vote of confidence when Congress increased the annual appropriation from \$12 to \$15 million. This program provides job skills to several thousand Indian men and women who need employment.

To speed construction of homes on the reservation, BIA introduced a series of master blueprints for homes built by "mutual help"—the plan which permits low-income Indian families to substitute labor for a down payment.

At the same time, tribes continued to make better use of their total resources. New industries, more and improved tourist facilities, new reservation roads, increased rental income from Indian property—all moved the Indians closer to their goal of economic self-sufficiency.

But the gains made so far have not yet wiped out all Indian unemployment, nor raised the average level of Indian income above the poverty line, nor eliminated all substandard housing, nor brought equal educational opportunity to isolated communities. Poverty has haunted the reservations for too long to be banished so quickly.

Nevertheless, we have made a start. To take their rightful place in the contemporary scene, Indian people must hold these gains and build upon them. Only then can they make their full contribution to national strength and receive their full share of the Nation's bountiful abundance.



PHILLEO NASH
Commissioner.

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HELPING PEOPLE TO HELP THEMSELVES

In 1965 the Bureau of Indian Affairs continued to stress the developmental, rather than the custodial, approach in the administration of its programs. A total of more than \$222 million was appropriated for Bureau activities during the fiscal year.

Education

Indian education programs, the cornerstone of BIA efforts to serve Indian people, reflect the Bureau premise that economic and social opportunity are dependent upon education.

About 48,000 Indian students are currently served by Bureau of Indian Affairs teachers and 4,200 children reside in Bureau-operated dormitories while they attend public schools.

The schools operated by the Bureau are administered in accordance with standards for curriculum and teacher qualifications that equal, and sometimes exceed, those of the States. There is increased dovetailing of State and Bureau efforts in education, with the result that 82,300 Indian children between the ages of 6 and 18 attend public schools in the 18 States for which the Bureau keeps census records, and another 8,600 attend parochial and other private schools in those States.*

*Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming. These are States in which the Bureau still exercises some direct responsibility for Indian education.

A Progress Report from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs

Some needy public school districts are aided in part with Federal funds under the Johnson-O'Malley Act, administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. A total of \$7.8 million was available under this program in fiscal year 1965. The Federal "impacted area" assistance program, which is administered by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare through the U.S. Office of Education, makes further financial aid available.

While most Bureau-operated schools are elementary schools serving rural areas, there are 26 Bureau high schools and three schools offering post-secondary courses scattered throughout the country. Their enrollments consist for the most part of Indian youth without access to public schooling, students who need intensive English instruction to overcome a language handicap, or those who seek technical or vocational training not available in public school systems. Approximately 18 percent of the students in Bureau schools are those who are unable to succeed in public schools and require the special help the Bureau of Indian Affairs offers.

After World War II, the Bureau developed special programs for the numbers of Navajo youngsters—many from remote sections of the vast reservation—who had reached their near-teens without any schooling. The numbers of teenage Navajos entering school with no prior education is decreasing and many of these schools now focus on experimentation in secondary curricula. Bureau schools today place strong emphasis on experimentation in English language teaching.

At Santa Fe, N. Mex., a unique Bureau institu-

tion attracts talented young Indians who seek training in the fine arts. The accredited high school program offered at the Santa Fe Institute of American Indian Arts includes fine arts electives and the 2-year postsecondary vocational program prepares the students for college and technical schools and for employment in arts vocations.

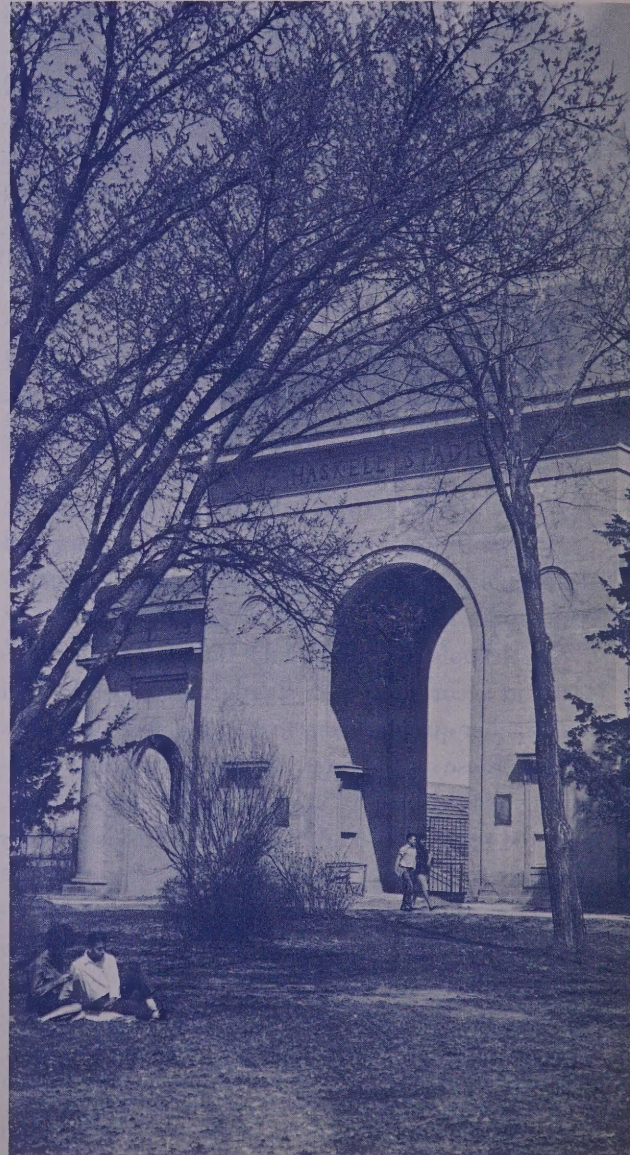
Another well-known Bureau school, Haskell Institute at Lawrence, Kans., has revamped its program to reflect the growing need for vocational technical education beyond high school. Phasing out the high school curriculum during 1965, Haskell commenced construction of new shops and laboratories for full-scale postsecondary vocational training.

While the number of Indians attending public schools is increasing (school districts have been established on reservations in Arizona, New Mexico, the Dakotas and Montana, among the more populous Indian States) the total number of Indian school-age children is increasing even more rapidly. The Indian birth rate averages 44 per 1,000, about twice that of the national average as a whole.

Population growth is not the only factor that brings about increased enrollments. Parental attitudes have changed from hostility toward the idea of education for their children to recognition of its importance for the future.

Schools—whether public, parochial, or Bureau-operated—are finding it difficult to keep up with the education needs of the Indian school-age population. There are still some 8,600 Indian youngsters in the 18 States where Bureau census is taken that were not in any school at all. This is a com-

Alma mater of thousands of successful Indians, Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kans., this year terminated its high school program to concentrate on postsecondary vocational training.



posite group of dropouts, severely handicapped, and late starters, as well as some for whom seats are still not available. Consequently, the Bureau has accelerated construction of rural schools in many areas, particularly in the Southwest and Alaska; has increased its teaching staff commensurately during the past few years; and has launched new, special programs tailored to individual need.

Congress has responded to the growing demand for adequate schooling for American Indians by appropriating over \$300 million in the past 3 years for all Bureau education programs, including school construction. The fiscal year 1965 appropriation alone was about \$114 million. These figures include the funding of the Johnson-O'Malley aid program for needy public school districts. In addition to maintenance and operation of existing school plants and construction of new schools, Bureau education funds were programmed in the fiscal year for these major purposes:

- Basic education programs that served more than 32,800 older reservation Indians;
- Summer enrichment programs that provided remedial classes, enrichment, and supervised recreation for about 20,000 youngsters in the summer months of 1965;
- Scholarship aid to approximately 1,700 Indian students seeking higher education;
- Dormitory facilities near public schools to house more than 4,200 children whose homes are beyond normal commuting distances; and
- Adult vocational training.

The Institute of American Indian Arts at Santa Fe, N. Mex., is a nurturing ground for youthful artistic talent. The fountain outside the administration building was designed and built by three Indian students.



Employment Assistance

Adult vocational training under the Bureau's Employment Assistance Program prepared Indian workers in more than 115 job categories at nearly 322 approved training institutions. During the fiscal year, 3,375 entered occupational training in the classroom or on-the-job. The wide range of services provided for adults who wish to seek jobs away from their reservation areas includes counseling, testing, transportation, job placement and other aid, as well as training.

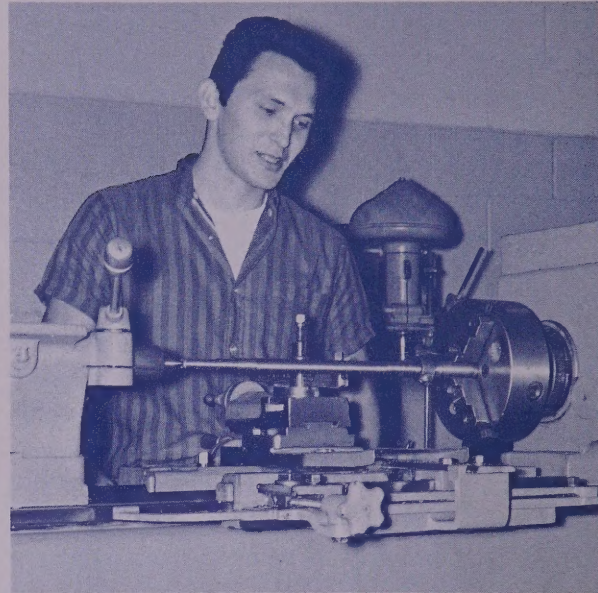
Housing

The programs of the Public Housing Administration, which first became available to the Indian tribes in 1961, are changing the appearance of many reservation communities. There are now 73 housing authorities established on Indian reservations.

As of June 30, 1965 there were 560 conventional low-rent housing units completed or under construction and the Public Housing Administration had earmarked funds for 1,100 additional low-rent units. Of these, 250 units were started during the fiscal year.

There were also 298 homes completed or being constructed under the mutual-help program, most of them started during fiscal year 1965. Mutual-help housing is a cooperative effort of PHA and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Under this unique program the Indian participant donates land and labor to the construction of his home. The Public Hous-

Vocational training, tailored to existing job opportunities, can widen the horizons of the future for American Indians. This young Lummi is learning the machinist's trade in a 2-year course at Tacoma Vocational School in Washington.



ing Administration advances construction funds and the Bureau provides project guidance. PHA funds are earmarked for 1,100 additional mutual-help homes to be built within the next 2 years.

In addition to new construction, reservation communities are benefiting from the "clean-up, paint-up" beautification campaigns and home improvement projects sparked by tribal governments and Indian community leadership, and financed by loans from tribal funds.

Welfare

The Bureau of Indian Affairs provides social services for reservation Indians, including finan-

Part of a housing development on the Miccosukee Reservation in Florida is this modernized version of the traditional "Chickee" dwelling. The Miccosukees own and operate an attractive restaurant nearby.



cial aid, when such services are not available from county departments of public welfare or other Federal agencies. Social workers offer family counseling; serve as liaison with State and local welfare programs; provide budgeting advice; and generally strive to interpret Indian needs and problems to community agencies and leaders. In fiscal year 1965 a combination of factors, including severe winter weather, continuing unemployment of the unskilled, and steady population increase placed heavy demands on Bureau services.

Financial assistance was provided to an average of more than 20,000 Indians each month. Counseling and guidance not involving financial aid were provided to an average 12,000 families or individ-

uals monthly. The Bureau also provided child welfare services to an average 2,700 children each month.

The Indian Adoption Project, sponsored jointly by the Bureau and the Child Welfare League of America, gained impetus in 1965. The project facilitates the adoption of homeless Indian children for whom adoptive placement is not available in the State where they reside. During the fiscal year, 45 Indian children were placed, bringing the total to 189 children placed since the project began in 1959. The children have found new homes in 19 different States in the East and Middle West, with the cooperation and assistance of the States and voluntary adoption agencies. By focusing atten-

tion on the unmet needs of homeless Indian children, the project has stimulated an increase in local adoptive placements in the States where reservations are located.

A new responsibility was added when Secretary Stewart L. Udall directed the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Office of Territories to make family planning services available through the social service programs of the two agencies. Family planning and birth control information, generally available to non-Indian communities throughout the Nation, will thus be made available without cost, on an entirely voluntary basis, to Indians and Alaska natives. The use of this service is definitely not a prerequisite to receiving other Bureau assistance.

The Secretary's policy is in line with the May 25, 1965 report of the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences. The report described the Nation's population growth as a serious obstacle to attainment of many goals of our society, and a factor which places general national prosperity out of reach for millions of citizens.

Technical Aid to Tribal Governments

While most of the organized Indian tribes living on reservations have little or no property, some tribes have extensive holdings. It is essential that the tribes, largely self-governing, administer their resources and income as productively as possible. The Bureau of Indian Affairs, therefore, works closely with the tribes to ensure effective, democratic government and wise business management of Indian lands and forests. Bureau specialists

conduct training programs in such subjects as soil erosion prevention, rangeland management, and pest control. Some tribes receive aid in investing the considerable income they derive from mineral and other leases, claims awards and other sources.

Successful development of reservation resources, both natural and human, depends in large measure on stable tribal government. Many tribes are currently reviewing their constitutions and taking steps to improve them, with the aid of Bureau specialists. During the past year, seven tribes or bands have adopted totally new constitutions. Ten tribes have amended their existing constitutions to regulate their activities more effectively. Over 60 other tribes are now considering various changes in their form of government and the Bureau is providing aid and advice.

A measure of Indian progress toward economic self-sufficiency may be found in the many ways Indians are putting tribal money to work for tribal members. A total of more than \$33.8 million, for example, was expended to develop and protect the natural resources of Indian lands. Such activities included reforestation, timber harvesting, construction of fire lookout towers, roads and trails for fire suppression, forest disease eradication, rangeland improvement, irrigation projects, water reservoirs, and recreation facilities.

Another \$38 million of tribal funds was committed to help meet the individual needs of tribal members and to improve general living conditions. These uses included expenditures for dividend, annuity and per capita payments; family-plan programs—housing construction and improvement,

household equipment purchases, utilities, and investments in individual business ventures; community centers; education; welfare; loans; law and order; sanitation; health; employment assistance; job training; youth camps; recreational activities; and industrial development to create employment for tribal members on or near the reservations.

Tribal funds derive from land leases and business and commercial enterprises. In recent years an added source of capital has been money appropriated by Congress to meet the awards made by the Indian Claims Commission (established in 1946) which adjudicates Indian tribal claims for further compensation for lands taken in past history. In some instances, the tribes have dissolved themselves—"terminated" Federal trust administration—and distributed their Claims Commission awards on a per capita basis to tribal members. (When such a per capita distribution is to be made, it is necessary for an official membership roll to be drawn up, a procedure which may involve considerable time and research; and in cases of per capita distributions, the Bureau is responsible for preparation of valid rolls.)

The many tribes which retain their entities are using judgment funds for community development and for investment in commercial and industrial enterprises to create employment as well as revenues for the tribal members. Other examples of "judgment fund programs" are loan guarantee plans for tribal members; higher education trust funds; adult education and recreation projects; home and family improvement funds for tribal

members; and expansion of public services to Indian reservation communities.

In fiscal year 1965, nearly \$60 million in judgments was granted by the Indian Claims Commission—the largest amount for any single year to date. Congress appropriated nearly \$58 million to cover the 11 judgments marked with an asterisk (*) in Table I and 3 judgments made in the previous year. Several Claims Commission judgments handed down during the fiscal year 1965 were still awaiting Congressional appropriation on June 30.

TABLE I—Indian Claims Commission Awards Fiscal Year 1965

Tribes	Amount
Chemehuevi.....	*\$996,834.81
Emigrant New York (Oneida).....	1,313,472.65
Indians of California, Mission Indians and Pit River.....	*29,100,000.00
Iowa.....	*1,372,267.50
Iowa.....	633,193.77
Miami of Oklahoma, Miami of Indiana.....	773,131.25
Ottawa.....	*406,166.19
Paiute, Southern.....	*7,253,165.19
Potawatomi.....	2,094,573.02
Sac and Fox.....	*1,096,533.42
Sac and Fox.....	965,560.39
Sac and Fox.....	1,789,201.45
Sac and Fox of Missouri.....	*192,000.00
Seminole.....	63,680.00
Shoshone of Wind River.....	*120,000.00
Ute, Confederate Bands.....	*7,908,586.16
Ute, Uncompahgre.....	*300,000.00
Yakima.....	61,991.40
Yakima and Colville.....	*3,446,700.00
TOTAL.....	59,887,057.20

CHANGING THE FACE OF UNDER-DEVELOPED AREAS

In 1962, the Bureau began, through its Economic Development Program, to unify efforts to eliminate poverty among the Indians. This is in accordance with the aims set forth in the 1961 Report of the Secretary of the Interior's Task Force on Indian Affairs.

One phase of this program has been the initiation of studies to determine the feasibility of various economic endeavors, using Indian reservation resources to provide new and better income and job opportunities. Three studies were completed during fiscal year 1965, making a total of 81 studies completed. An additional 26 are still under way.

It is a well-known fact that some Indian lands are richly endowed with natural and human resources and have excellent potential for industrial development. Some of the scenic areas are ideally suited for tourism and recreation development. The studies, therefore, explore such possibilities as the establishment of resorts, restaurants, campgrounds, museums, public accommodations, wildlife propagation, agricultural production, food processing, forestry, sawmills and wood-products industries, mineral deposits, industrial parks, and arts and craft sales outlets.

Directly attributable to feasibility studies are such tribal enterprises as the Mescalero Apache Ski Resort; the Kah-Nee-Ta Vacation Resort on the Warm Springs Reservation; a new motel on the Navajo Reservation; a shopping center established by the Jicarilla Apaches, and the Miccosukee restau-

rant in Florida—the only public dining place on the Tamiami Trail.

Industrialization

As the Bureau's Indian Industrial Development Program becomes more widely known in the business community, an increasing number of practical industrialists and other businessmen are turning to the reservation areas as likely sites for plant location. From the beginning of the program in the mid-1950's, 76 commercial and industrial enterprises have located in Indian country. In fiscal year 1965 alone, 20 new plants either began operating or had agreed to locate on or near reservations.

The majority of these operations have resulted from direct, personal contacts between Bureau representatives and private businessmen. The Bureau offers wide technical assistance with the many financial and administrative factors involved in plant location and establishment.

Of the 76 companies, 52 are presently operating and employ nearly 3,000 workers. About 60 percent of these employees are Indians. When plants in this group, and another 11 now under construction, reach capacity operations, an additional 650 Indians will be gainfully employed, many for the first time in their adult lives.

The Indian Industrial Development Program has meant sizable increases in earnings for Indian workers. In 1960, about \$1 million in new Indian payrolls came to reservation communities. As fiscal 1965 drew to a close, this figure had climbed to nearly \$4 million, with the expectation that the

Many Chippewa Indians are employed by Simpson Electric Co.'s plant at Lac Du Flambeau, Wis. The plant, which located on the Lac Du Flambeau Reservation in 1946, manufactures electric assembly parts and testing meters.



annual rate of earnings will rise another \$1.7 million when the present plants reach capacity employment.

A variety of financing methods have been used, including private investment, financing by the tribes themselves, the Bureau's revolving loan fund, and loans from other Federal and State agencies. In all instances, cooperative efforts of the Indians, the Bureau and the surrounding communities were required. In many cases, the plants represent the sole source of permanent, full-time employment for Indians and non-Indians alike.

Indian reservation locations are particularly well-suited for light manufacturing. Among the plants now employing Indian workers are:

- The only domestic producer of precision jewel bearings used in gyros and missile guidance systems (North Dakota);
- An electronics components manufacturer (New Mexico);
- A precision gears producer (Wisconsin); and
- A carpet manufacturer, (Oklahoma).

Reservation forest and other natural resources are providing the raw materials for sawmills and many other enterprises.

Tourism and Outdoor Recreation

During the past fiscal year, the tourism program continued to move forward as more tribes became interested in this form of economic development.

Guest cottages and an inviting pool await visitors to Kah-Nee-Ta vacation resort, a successful enterprise developed by the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation in Oregon. Fed from nearby 110-degree hot springs, this water is cooled to 85 degrees with water from the Warm Springs River.

Photo by E. Y. Lee



At Kayenta, Ariz., on the Navajo Reservation, the new Monument Valley Inn was dedicated. The 80-unit facility was built at a cost of nearly \$1 million. Operating at close to full occupancy throughout the year, it employs about 40 Navajo Indians.

Kah-Nee-Ta Hot Springs, on the Warm Springs Reservation in Oregon, suffered serious flood damage in the spring of 1964. When swollen streams receded, a sea of mud covered the grounds, filled the swimming pool and stained the walls, floors and furnishings of vacation cottages. The Bureau estimated damage to Oregon Indian areas at nearly \$1 million, with most of it on the Warm Springs Reservation.

Their tribal economy threatened, the Warm Springs Indians set to work to clean up the reservation and prepare Kah-Nee-Ta for the expected influx of summer visitors. The Bureau of Indian Affairs rushed emergency funds and Bureau specialists to the scene. Now recovered from the damage, Kah-Nee-Ta has enjoyed a prosperous season and is considering plans to expand its restaurant and lodging services. In view for the future are a golf course and an airport to serve the popular vacation resort.

A new program, developed by the Bureau, encourages establishment of residential camps for boys and girls on reservations. BIA has already held a number of conferences with camp directors, recreation development organizations, and other groups. As a result, a number of tribes are surveying their reservations for desirable residential camp sites. Foremost, to date, in preparing for this program are the Blackfeet Indians of Montana, whose thousands of acres of land adjoining the famous Glacier National Park contain spectacular settings for boys' and girls' residential camps. As of this writing, the Blackfeet tribe has designated three sites where hundreds of acres of land may be leased immediately for development by qualified private or organizational camp operators.

This new Bureau activity is expected to become an important phase of the commercial tourism and recreation program.

Indian Arts and Crafts

Indian artists and craftsmen still practice the skills of their forefathers, producing pottery, tex-

Through training programs offered under State-Federal cooperative arrangements, Alaskan craftsmen are studying craft techniques and gaining wider recognition for their work.

Photo by Seattle Times



tiles, carvings, and other objects of beauty and utility. The production of quality crafts products is recognized as an important factor in reservation economy, as well as the means of preserving a precious heritage.

During the past fiscal year, two important art exhibitions were held in the Gallery of American Indian Art in the Department of the Interior in

Washington. A combined exhibit and sale in November, 1964, featured the work of 80 artists who represented tribal groups from Florida to Alaska.

The second exhibit was held in April, 1965, and contained priceless examples of Indian arts and crafts of all periods, many on loan from museums. This special month-long showing was held in conjunction with a 5-day American Indian Festival of the Performing Arts, with outstanding Indian dancers and singers presenting the dance, music, legend, and myth of the American Indian.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs cooperates with the Indian Arts and Crafts Board, which was established in the Department of the Interior to foster and promote authentic Indian arts and crafts. These activities include training for Alaska natives.

In the past year the Board assisted the Alaska State Department of Labor in establishing a Designer-Craftsman Training Project at Nome. The project, financed under the Manpower Development and Training Act, involved a selected group of 32 practicing Eskimo craftsmen, ranging in age from 16 to 65. The trainees were introduced to a wide range of materials, tools, and technologies, in a course aimed at teaching them new techniques in creating crafts that are in greatest demand. The excellent response of the pilot group of trainees and the public's acceptance of their work indicate the possibility of similar projects in the future.

Loans for Development

Success or failure of any business or industrial enterprise can depend on financing. Assisting

Indian enterprises to obtain credit and financing is an important Bureau activity.

Indian tribes and individuals are increasing their use of the financing services available to all citizens through banks and other lending institutions. Last year the total credit made available from these sources to Indian farmers, businessmen, and students reached \$157 million—an increase from approximately \$103 million the previous year, and from less than \$35 million 10 years ago.

Not all Indian financing comes from outside sources. Last year the tribes used \$52.7 million of their own funds to promote reservation development. This is more than twice the amount of tribal funds in use 10 years ago.

Loans are also made by the Bureau, but only if financing is unavailable from other sources. The loans are made from a revolving fund which is not sufficient to meet the Indians' needs.

At the close of the 1965 fiscal year, loan applications for over \$50 million were pending. Cash available for loans totalled less than \$1.5 million. Because of the unavailability of funds, loans totalled only \$2.2 million during 1965, compared with \$6.7 million the previous fiscal year. Legislation is pending to increase the authorization for this purpose.

About half the Bureau loans were to enable the tribes and cooperative associations to conduct businesses that provide employment for Indians. These enterprises included sawmills, canneries, stores, livestock herds, and tourist facilities. The balance was loaned to individual businessmen and farmers, and for educational purposes.

For the kind of accelerated expansion needed to alleviate unemployment in underdeveloped Indian areas, still more capital will be required. The Bureau in 1965 supported a legislative proposal that would establish a \$15 million loan guaranty and insurance fund to stimulate private lending, similar to loan provisions of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act. It would provide upwards of \$100 million annually in increased Indian credit.

Indian Forests

BIA goals for Indian forests are full utilization of the forest and its products, and sustained yield—yearly timber harvest balancing yearly growth. In helping the Indians manage their timber resources, the Bureau cooperates with a number of other agencies, including State agencies, the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Forest Service in the Department of Agriculture.

Timber management for sustained yield creates jobs in logging, milling, and related processing operations, as well as increased tribal income. The receipts from Indian-owned timber stumpage continued to rise in fiscal year 1965, with tribes receiving nearly \$12.3 million in stumpage payments for the 750 million board feet of timber cut under contract. This is an increase of nearly 7 percent in stumpage value over the previous fiscal year, with a slight increase in volume.

In the language of the labor market, every million board feet of Indian timber harvested means from 5 to 10 man-years of employment. The annual allowable cut is now 1 billion board feet as

a result of a recent forest reexamination conducted by the Bureau. Therefore, when the new cut is achieved, it should provide employment for more than 5,000 reservation workers. Stumpage payments to tribes at that time should exceed \$15 million.

Management of Indian forests for multiple-use provides not only timber but recreation, fish and wildlife propagation areas, and watershed protection.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs recently extended its forestry activities to Indian lands in the State of Alaska. Several companies have indicated interest in purchasing timber from the Annette Island Reservation in southeastern Alaska, as well as from individual Indian tracts elsewhere in the State. Increased timber sales could provide a needed lift for the economies of rural Alaska native and Indian areas.

Land Development and Conservation

Livestock grazing, traditionally an important factor in Indian life, continues to provide a major source of income. In the past fiscal year, 88 percent of the 40 million acres of Indian rangeland were in use by the Indian owners. The balance was made available through permits to non-Indians under competitive bidding. Cash grazing fees totalled more than \$3.7 million, more than \$1.8 million being paid by non-Indians. Livestock operations as a whole grossed more than \$25.5 million for the tribes and tribal members.

Conservation education programs continued to

It's never too early for conservation training. A Bureau of Indian Affairs soil scientist illustrates soil variability by digging a series of test pits for Indian sixth graders.



spread knowledge of beneficial land management techniques. More than 4,700 educational meetings were held by Bureau specialists, with over 129,000 Indians in attendance. The extension program, conducted by the Bureau in 18 States, provided continued assistance to Indian people in agricultural management and home improvement. The program, which emphasizes youth work, encouraged participation of more than 14,000 Indian youngsters in 4-H activities.

The Jicarilla Reservation offers an example of beneficial results from conservation education. Over 9,000 acres on the Reservation have been recently cleared of brush and seeded, to permit future grazing of 15 to 20 times as many livestock. Brush eradication projects were carried out on more than 113,000 acres of Indian lands during the 1965 fiscal year.

Soil and range surveys, basic to accurate conservation planning, were conducted on more than 7.4 million acres. There were 2,272 miles of fences constructed and 807 storage ponds built, with a total capacity of more than 8,700 acre feet of water. Many of these ponds were stocked with fish to provide additional recreational facilities.

In drouth areas, BIA irrigation projects have brought about increased income for Indian ranches and farms. Plentiful grass has helped to stabilize the livestock economy and resulted in higher rental rates received by the Indian landowners for grazing surplus.

Irrigation has also increased crop yields. During the 1965 fiscal year, more than 7,500 acres of

land were developed for irrigated agriculture. The gross value of all crops produced from irrigated project lands was approximately \$75.7 million during the period.

Undoubtedly one of the largest irrigation projects initiated by the Bureau is the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project, being built by the Bureau of Reclamation in New Mexico for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. This project will deliver up to 508,000 acre-feet of water annually from Reclamation's Navajo Reservoir to the Navajo Reservation.

Indian areas stricken by drouth or inclement winter weather also receive emergency aid from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. During the past fiscal year, BIA negotiated with the Department of Agriculture to make available more than 6 million pounds of emergency feed grain. On Southwestern reservations, more than 2,900 Indian livestock owners received this assistance for a total of more than 5,300 head of cattle and 109,000 head of sheep. Through emergency assistance, the Bureau also enabled Indian livestock operators in Montana and North Dakota to purchase hay and to clear access roads to feed their livestock when the area experienced the most severe winter weather in many years.

Real Estate

With the assistance of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Indians are becoming better informed about the value of their land holdings. Appraisal reports prepared by the Bureau now provide the landowners with the knowledge needed to obtain an

equitable return from leases and rentals. The Bureau analyzes surface and subsurface values and provides consultation and land use planning services for Indian property.

As a part of the Federal trusteeship responsibility, BIA furnishes real estate management services to Indian landowners. In fiscal year 1965 there were more than 4 million acres under agricultural lease and over 5.4 million acres under mineral lease. The total of 57,523 leases in effect at the close of the year produced income (rent, royalty, and bonuses) of \$55,989,000 for the Indians.

Annual property management seminars, emphasizing modern concepts of real property management, together with the expanding appraisal services, are proving their value in greater returns to the Indian landowners.

Reservation Road Construction

BIA's vigorous program of road construction benefits the Indians in many ways. Products of farm, ranch, mine, and forest are more easily transported to market; children are speeded to school; and scenic reservation areas become accessible to tourists and potential developers. Many of the economic achievements discussed elsewhere in this report have been accelerated by the Bureau's road program.

The national system of interstate and defense highways, now half completed, will bring a greater volume of tourist traffic to Indian lands. Scenic Bureau roads now link many of these major high-

ways with tribal tourist facilities on the reservations. In the past fiscal year, some of the outstanding projects undertaken or completed included roads to serve:

- Point of Pines recreation area on the San Carlos Reservation;
- Ruidoso recreation area and the Indian-owned Sierra Blanca ski resort on the Mescalero Apache Reservation;
- Red Lake to Whiskey Creek area on the Navajo Reservation;
- White Earth to Ponsford, Minn., area on the White Earth Reservation;
- Neola-Big Spring recreation area on the Uintah and Ouray Reservation in Utah; and
- Kah-Nee-Ta Hot Springs resort on the Warm Springs Reservation in Oregon, a tribal enterprise.

About one-half the construction projects employ Indian crews. They earn while learning the skills of road construction and maintenance.

Expenditures for road construction in 1965 totalled more than \$19.3 million while road maintenance expenditures were \$3.7 million. Maintenance work, including the repair of damage from disastrous floods, was performed on 15,880 miles of road. Construction improvements, including grading, draining, bridge construction, gravel surface, roadbed preparation, and bituminous surfacing operations, were performed on more than 935 miles of road.

TABLE II—*BIA Funds Committed by Program for Fiscal Year 1965*

Education and welfare services.....		\$98,905,484
Educational assistance, facilities, and services.....	\$71,504,098	
Welfare and guidance services.....	13,027,948	
Relocation and adult vocational training.....	11,582,732	
Maintaining law and order.....	2,790,706	
Resources management services.....		41,861,002
Forest and range lands.....	5,173,349	
Fire suppression.....	510,318	
Agricultural and industrial assistance.....	6,439,760	
Soil and moisture conservation.....	5,881,597	
Maintenance of roads.....	3,742,354	
Development of Indian arts and crafts.....	332,936	
Management of Indian trust properties.....	6,577,933	
Repair and maintenance of buildings and utilities.....	11,956,747	
Operation, repair and maintenance of Indian irrigation systems.....	1,246,008	
Construction.....		43,602,908
Buildings and utilities.....	33,630,463	
Irrigation systems.....	8,274,591	
Land acquisition.....	8,142	
Flood damage.....	1,689,712	
Road construction.....		19,376,015
Federal-aid highway roads.....	18,495,184	
Navajo-Hopi roads.....	880,831	
General administrative expenses.....		4,620,079
Menominee educational grants.....		88,000
Revolving fund for loans.....		900,000
Payment to the Seneca Nation.....		12,128,917
Grand total.....		221,482,405

THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT

American Indians now participate in all programs for the disadvantaged under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. The programs are operated by the Office of Economic Opportunity with Interior Department cooperation.

Job Corps

Through Job Corps Conservation Centers located around the Nation, disadvantaged young people receive a second chance at schooling, plus skill training and a change of environment.

Ten such centers have been approved for Indian reservation areas: Winslow, Ariz.; Mexican Springs, N. Mex. (Navajo); Colorado River and San Carlos Reservation in Arizona; Mescalero Apache in New Mexico; White Earth in Minnesota; Flathead in Montana; Cheyenne River in South Dakota; and Makah and Yakima in Washington. During fiscal year 1965 the centers in Winslow, and at Neah Bay on the Makah Reservation were activated. Young people from all over the country are enrolled in these camps.

Neighborhood Youth Corps

The Youth Corps Program, which encourages potential dropouts to stay in school through a combination of schooling and employment, has been welcomed in Indian communities. As of June 30, 1965, applications for funds had been received



The Economic Opportunity Act provides for combinations of work and study to help Indian youths stay in school while earning a livelihood.



from 55 Indian communities and more than half had been approved. Approximately 12,000 young Indians participated in 46 different Neighborhood Youth Corps Programs, engaging in a variety of constructive work projects.

Operation Head Start

Communities receive 90 percent Federal financial support to organize preschool programs to ease the adjustment of young children to regular schooling. Health services and help in developing verbal skills and special abilities are features of Head Start. There were 20 applications for funds from Indian tribal groups, of which 18 were approved for programs to serve about 1,600 children. In addition, more than 65 local school districts in predominantly Indian areas sponsored programs to include more than 9,000 children.

Community Action Program

The Community Action Program (CAP) provides financial support for a broad range of antipoverty efforts in local communities. This in-depth approach to socioeconomic problems has attracted 61 applications from Indian communities. As of the end of the 1965 fiscal year, 26 applications had been approved.

Proposals included adult educational enrichment programs; evening study halls for students; nursery schools and day-care centers for children of working parents; family counseling and guidance clinics; preemployment training for service jobs; home-makers' service; manpower availability surveys of reservations; and a plan to preserve for posterity the Indian legends, folklore, tribal and family histories on recordings prepared by tribal elders.

VISTA

Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA)—the Domestic Peace Corps—had assigned 18 workers to Indian reservations and scheduled classes to train several hundred more workers requested by Indian groups.

Other

In addition to these activities, there were a number of Indian college students assigned to work-study projects under the Economic Opportunity Act, and several hundred rural Indian families taking advantage of special provisions for loans to combat rural poverty.

These programs are expected to provide continuing benefits to the communities that initiate them and the individuals participating.

Cover photo by Don Morrow

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Created in 1849, the Department of the Interior—a Department of Conservation—is concerned with the management, conservation, and development of the Nation's water, fish, wildlife, mineral, forest, and park and recreational resources. It also has major responsibilities for Indian and Territorial affairs.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department works to assure that nonrenewable resources are developed and used wisely, that park and recreational resources are conserved for the future, and that renewable resources make their full contribution to the progress, prosperity, and security of the United States—now and in the future.

